1   WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2

3   1.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

4   computer system programmed to:

5   apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users,

6   dimensional weight calculation rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel

7   specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user

8   accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer

9   device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the

10   global communications network.

11

12   2.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

13   computer system programmed to:

14   identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each

15   carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the

16   particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel

17   characteristics translate into a particular calculated dimensional weight according to

18   dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user

19   accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer

20   device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the

21   global communications network.

22

23   3.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

24   computer system programmed to:

25   calculate, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a

26   dimensional weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers

27   according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers,

28   wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the

29   particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

1   communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

2   having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

3

4   4.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said shipping

5   management computer system further programmed to:

6   compare the calculated dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for each

7   carrier to a set of dimensional weight limitations for the carrier;

8   identify as a supporting carrier each carrier for which the calculated dimensional

9   weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier does not exceed a set of dimensional

10   weight limitations for the carrier.

11

12   5.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 4, said shipping

13   management computer system further programmed to:

14   calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a

15   shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

16

17   6.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 5, said shipping

18   management computer system further programmed to:

19   calculate the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each

20   supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular

21   service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel

22   specifications and to the calculated dimensional weight for the particular parcel and as

23   applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular

24   user.

25

26   7.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 6, said shipping

27   management computer system further programmed to:

28   generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display

29   monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

1

2   8.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

3   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

4   applying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users,

5   dimensional weight calculation rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel

6   specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user

7   accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer

8   device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the

9   global communications network.

10

11   9.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

12   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

13   identifying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each

14   carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the

15   particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel

16   characteristics translate into a particular calculated dimensional weight according to

17   dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user

18   accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer

19   device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the

20   global communications network.

21

22   10.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

23   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

24   calculating, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a

25   dimensional weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers

26   according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers,

27   wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the

28   particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

29   communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

1   having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

2

3   11.   The method of Claim 10, said method further comprising:

4   comparing the calculated dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for

5   each carrier to a set of dimensional weight limitations for the carrier;

6   identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier for which the calculated dimensional

7   weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier does not exceed a set of dimensional

8   weight limitations for the carrier.

9

10   12.   The method of Claim 11, said method further comprising:

11   calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a

12   shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

13

14   13.   The method of Claim 12, said method further comprising:

15   calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each

16   supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular

17   service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel

18   specifications and to the calculated dimensional weight for the particular parcel and as

19   applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular

20   user.

21

22   14.   The method of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

23   generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display

24   monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

25

26   15.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

27   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

28   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

29   a set of program instructions for applying, in response to a request by any particular

1 user of a plurality of users, dimensional weight calculation rules for each of a plurality of

2 carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular

3 requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

4 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

5 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

6

7   16.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10   a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to a request by any particular

11 user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a

12 particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel

13 characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular calculated

14 dimensional weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the

15 plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

16 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

17 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

18

19   17.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

20 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

21 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

22   a set of program instructions for calculating, in response to a request by any particular

23 user of a plurality of users, a dimensional weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from

24 a plurality of carriers according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the

25 plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel

26 characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the

27 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each

28 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

29 communications network.

1   18.   The computer program product of Claim 17, said computer program product

2 further comprising:

3   a set of program instructions for comparing the calculated dimensional weight of the

4 particular parcel calculated for each carrier to a set of dimensional weight limitations for the

5 carrier;

6   a set of program instructions for identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier for

7 which the calculated dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier

8 does not exceed a set of dimensional weight limitations for the carrier.

9

10   19.   The computer program product of Claim 18, said computer program product

11 further comprising:

12   a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered

13 by each supporting carrier a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

14

15   20.   The computer program product of Claim 19, said computer program product

16 further comprising:

17   a set of program instructions for calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel

18 for each service offered by each supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping

19 pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied

20 to the set of parcel specifications and to the calculated dimensional weight for the particular

21 parcel and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the

22 particular user.

23

24   21.   The computer program product of Claim 20, said computer program product

25 further comprising:

26   a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the

27 calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of

28 the particular user.

29

1   22.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

2   computer system programmed to:

3   apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, Billable

4   weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications

5   for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a dimensional weight for

6   the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein each user accesses the

7   computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each

8   user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

9   communications network.

10

11   23.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

12   computer system programmed to:

13   . identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each

14   carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the

15   particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight

16   calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel characteristics

17   and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a particular determined billable

18   weight according to billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers,

19   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

20   using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

21   electronic connection to the global communications network.

22

23   24.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

24   computer system programmed to:

25   determine, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a

26   billable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to

27   billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular

28   parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user

29   and by a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein

1   each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client

2   computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection

3   to the global communications network.

4

5   25.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 24, said shipping

6   management computer system further programmed to:

7   identify as a supporting carrier each carrier that supports shipping of the particular

8   parcel according to a set of acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each particular carrier.

9

10   26.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 25, said shipping

11 management computer system further programmed to:

12   calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a

13 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

14

15   27.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 26, said shipping

16 management computer system ifurther programmed to:

17   calculate the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each

18 supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular

19 service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel

20 specifications and to the determined billable weight for the particular parcel and as applied to

21 an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular user.

22

23   28.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 27, said shipping

24 management computer system further programmed to:

25   generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display

26 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

27

28   29.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

29 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

1   applying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users,

2   Billable weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel

3   specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a

4   dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein

5   each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client

6   computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection

7   to the global communications network.

8

9   30.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

10   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

11   identifying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each

12   carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the

13   particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight

14   calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel characteristics

15   and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a particular determined billable

16   weight according to billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers,

17   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

18   using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

19   electronic connection to the global communications network.

20

21   31.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

22   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

23   determining, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a

24   billable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to

25   billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular

26   parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user

27   and by a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein

28   each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client

29   computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection

1　to the global communications network.

2

3　　　32.　The method of Claim 31, said method further comprising:

4　　　　identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier that supports shipping of the particular

5　parcel according to a set of acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each particular carrier.

6

7　　　33.　The method of Claim 32, said method further comprising:

8　　　　calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier a

9　shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

10

11　　　34.　The method of Claim 33, said method further comprising:

12　　　　calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each service offered by each

13　supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular

14　service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the set of parcel

15　specifications and to the determined billable weight for the particular parcel and as applied to

16　an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular user.

17

18　　　35.　The method of Claim 34, said method further comprising:

19　　　　generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display

20　monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

21

22　　　36.　A computer-program-product embodying computer program instructions for

23　execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

24　any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

25　　　　a set of program instructions for applying, in response to a request by any particular

26　user of a plurality of users, Billable weight determination rules for each of a plurality of

27　carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular

28　requesting user and to a dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the

29　computer system, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

1   communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

2   having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

3

4   37.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

5   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

6   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

7   a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to a request by any particular

8   user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a

9   particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel

10   characteristics and a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier,

11   wherein said set of parcel characteristics and said dimensional weight for each carrier

12   translate into a particular determined billable weight according to billable weight

13   determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the

14   computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each

15   user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

16   communications network.

17

18   38.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

19   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

20   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

21   a set of program instructions for determining, in response to a request by any

22   particular user of a plurality of users, a billable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier

23   from a plurality of carriers according to billable weight determination rules for each of the

24   plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel

25   characteristics input by the particular requesting user and by a dimensional weight calculated

26   by the computer system for each carrier, wherein each user accesses the computer system

27   over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client

28   computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications

29   network.

1   39.   The computer program product of Claim 38, said computer program product

2   further comprising:

3   a set of program instructions for identifying as a supporting carrier each carrier that

4   supports shipping of the particular parcel according to a set of acceptable parcel

5   characteristics rules for each particular carrier.

6

7   40.   The computer program product of Claim 39, said computer program product

8   further comprising:

9   a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered

10   by each supporting carrier a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel.

11

12   41.   The computer program product of Claim 40, said computer program product

13   further comprising:

14   a set of program instructions for calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel

15   for each service offered by each supporting carrier according to a set of parcel shipping

16   pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied

17   to the set of parcel specifications and to the determined billable weight for the particular

18   parcel and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the

19   particular user.

20

21   42.   The computer program product of Claim 41, said computer program product

22   further comprising:

23   a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the

24   calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of

25   the particular user.

26

27   43.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

28   computer system programmed to:

29   apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, ratable

1   weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications

2   for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the

3   computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each

4   user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

5   communications network.

6

7   44.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 43, said shipping

8   management computer system further programmed to:

9   identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each

10   carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the

11   particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel

12   characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight

13   calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer

14   system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user

15   client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

16   communications network.

17

18   45.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 44, said shipping

19   management computer system further programmed to:

20   determine, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a

21   ratable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to

22   ratable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular

23   parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting

24   user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

25   using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

26   electronic connection to the global communications network.

27

28   46.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 43 wherein the ratable

29   weight is a dimensional weight.

1   47.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 43 wherein the ratable

2   weight is a billable weight.

3

4   48.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

5   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

6   applying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, ratable

7   weight determination rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a set of parcel specifications

8   for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the

9   computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each

10   user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

11   communications network.

12

13   49.   The method of Claim 48, said method further comprising:

14   identifying, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each

15   carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the

16   particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel

17   characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight

18   calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer

19   system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user

20   client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

21   communications network.

22

23   50.   The method of Claim 49, said method further comprising:

24   determining, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a

25   ratable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to

26   ratable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular

27   parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting

28   user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

29   using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

1   electronic connection to the global communications network.

2

3   51.   The method of Claim 48 wherein the ratable weight is a dimensional weight.

4

5   52.   The method of Claim 48 wherein the ratable weight is a billable weight.

6

7   53.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

8   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

9   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10   a set of program instructions for applying, in response to a request by any particular

11   user of a plurality of users, ratable weight determination rules for each of a plurality of

12   carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular

13   requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

14   communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

15   having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

16

17   54.   The computer program product of Claim 53, said computer program product

18   further comprising:

19   a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to a request by any particular

20   user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a

21   particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel

22   characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular ratable

23   weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers,

24   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

25   using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

26   electronic connection to the global communications network.

27

28   55.   The computer program product of Claim 54, said computer program product

29   further comprising:

1   a set of program instructions for determining, in response to a request by any

2   particular user of a plurality of users, a ratable weight for a particular parcel for each carrier

3   from a plurality of carriers according to ratable weight determination rules for each of the

4   plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel

5   characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the

6   computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each

7   user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

8   communications network.

9

10   56.   The computer program product of Claim 53 wherein the ratable weight is a

11   dimensional weight.

12

13   57.   The computer program product of Claim 53 wherein the ratable weight is a

14   billable weight.

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